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Chinese Vice Foreign Minister to Visit U.S.

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PRC Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin has accepted Secretary Vance's invitation to visit the U.S. in mid-March for follow-up discussions to those held during Secretary Brown's visit to China in January. The main focus will be Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean, including the steps both countries are taking to respond to the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan. In addition, these talks will permit exchanges on Southeast Asia, East-West issues in Europe, global interdependence issues (arms control, energy, food/population, environment) and bilateral issues. Zhang's visit, March 13-23, is part of a broad range of consultations which the two governments have held since the normalization of US-PRC relations fourteen months ago. It also provides the opportunity to continue discussions begun during Secretary of Defense Harold Brown's visit to China in January. We do not expect to discuss any new accords, but we do expect Zhang to meet with senior U.S. officials during three days of talks in Washington. In addition the delegation will spend two days in Honolulu as guests of CINCPAC, and to visit New York privately.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

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